

under the massive bowers of foliage so gigantic, is most favourable to the growth and spread of Fungi, Lichens, and other Cellulares; accordingly, in this locality they abound everywhere.

In some portions of land cleared of jungle by the native agriculturists, I observed many fruit-trees flourishing in cultivation, such as the Mango (*Mangifera Indica*), Custard Apple (*Anona squamosa*), Plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*), Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), &c. In several small plots of cultivated ground, likewise recovered from the jungle, I observed Rice, Sugar Cane, Bamboo, and other useful plants, growing and flourishing in apparent abundance, and associated with cereal grains, such as *Holcus Sorghum* (joaree) and *Holcus spicatus* (bajree).

On ascending the mountain slopes, and after emerging from the jungle, the vegetation again becomes changed. At first the change is slow, but at length it becomes well marked and decided. The underwood becomes less abundant, and the trees stand forth in more solitary grandeur and in greater relief, the varied colouring of our autumnal foliage being absent among them, but this absence being more than compensated for by the richness of their verdure, the contrast of their forms, and the gracefulness of their proportions. Mosses of various descriptions and beautiful Lichens clothe the rocks, while Grasses of great variety and fantastic appearance are met with in abundance. Arums and Euphorbias now become prevalent. In addition to the rarer trees and shrubs already enumerated as occurring in the jungle, I observed as typical of this district—which district may be designated that of the slopes—the presence of the *Bridelia montana*, *Pentaptera paniculata*, and *P. tomentosa*.

In continuing in an altitudinal direction, the ascent of the hills becomes suddenly very abrupt, the trap rock being now thrown up in most places into immense terraces, crowned by table-lands, and flanked by high and precipitous cliffs. On these table-lands forest trees are generally absent; but forest trees occur here and there. The whole surface of the table-lands is, however, strewn over with large tree shrubs and plants of great variety. The *Calyptrothrix caryophyllifolia* or Jambool tree is very characteristic of this district. The *Olea dioica*, *Terminalia Chebula*, *Symplocos racemosa*, *Memecylon ramiflorum*, and the Water-tree or Oomber (*Ficus glomerata*) occur very frequently. *Urtica pulcherrima*, *Rubus rugosus*, a species of *Salix* (the *tetrasperma* of Roxburgh), *Eriolaena Hookeriana*, and *Pygeum acuminatum* occur here and there.

[To be continued.]

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

November 27th, 1855.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

NOTE ON THE GENUS *LEGRIOCINCLUS*, LESSON, AND ITS SYNONYMS. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A. ETC.

In his last published work on natural history, entitled 'Description des Mammifères et Oiseaux,' which is part of the series known as

'Complément aux œuvres de Buffon,' M. Lesson has elevated to generic rank by the name of *Legriocinclus*, a bird previously described in the 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles' (ix. p. 168, anno 1838) as *Petrodroma mexicana*. While lately in Paris I was favoured by Prince Charles Bonaparte with a sight of several volumes of very beautiful coloured drawings of birds and other animals of which M. Lesson in his lifetime had published descriptions only. M. Lesson's descriptions, as is well known, are so short and often so inaccurate as to render identification of the originals almost impossible; and these drawings are therefore very valuable, and, as they are to be disposed of, will, it is to be hoped, pass into the possession of some public institution, where access to them may always be had. Among them is a plate of the so-called *Legriocinclus*, which, there is no difficulty in perceiving at a glance, is a member of Lafresnaye's genus *Ramphocinclus*, and so closely resembling the *R. brachyurus*, the type of that genus, as to leave little doubt that the two generic names are co-equal. But if Lesson's locality is correct (Vera Cruz), which, however, I am hardly inclined to believe, the *Legriocinclus mexicanus* may possibly be a new species of this peculiar form—hitherto considered as confined to the Antilles, but thus extended geographically to the mainland.

Three species of *Ramphocinclus* only are given by Lafresnaye in his article in the 'Revue Zoologique' (1843, p. 67). Of the first of these—the type of the genus—*R. brachyurus* (*Turdus brachyurus*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xx. 255, et Enc. Méth. p. 655), the Paris Museum contains several fine examples from the islands of St. Lucia and Guadaloupe. Vieillot says his bird was from Martinique, which is very probable, as that island is situate between the other two.

Upon reading attentively Lafresnaye's description of his second species of the genus, *R. tremulus*, I think there can be little doubt that, if not absolutely identical with, it is at all events a very close ally of the bird which Mr. Gould described as long ago as 1835, under the name of *Stenorhynchus ruficauda*. There are two specimens of this bird in the British Museum, from the island of Nevis.

Stenorhynchus, having been previously employed in Zoology, was changed by Mr. G. R. Gray in 1840 to *Cinclocerthia*.

Prince Bonaparte, in his 'Conspectus' (p. 223), has somehow or other confounded the third species of this same genus along with *Campylorhynchus scolopaceus* of Spix, which is quite a different form and is the type of the wren-like genus *Campylorhynchus*, and *Thryothorus longirostris* of Vieillot, which he likewise quotes as synonymous, is, I believe, a true *Thryothorus*. Again, *Zoothera cinclops* of the same work (p. 253), since generified into *Cinclops* (*Cinclops melanoleucus* of Mr. G. R. Gray's lately published List of Genera), seems to be nothing more than a bird of this genus—probably *R. brachyurus*, though it is dangerous to draw positive conclusions from so meagre a description.

Under these circumstances I propose to reduce into one group, or at all events to place in close juxtaposition, the following six generic

terms, some of which have hitherto been arranged in widely different families :—

1. STENORHYNCHUS, Gould (1835), P. Z. S. p. 186.
2. CINCLOCERTHIA, G. R. Gray (1840), List of Gen. p. 22.
3. RAMPHOCINCLUS, Lafr. (1843), Rev. Zool. p. 66.
4. HERMINIERUS, Lesson, (ubi?)
5. LEGRIOCINCLUS, Lesson (1847), Descr. d. Mamm. et Ois. p. 278.
6. CINCLOPS, Bp. (1854), Notes Ornithologiques, p. 25.

Of these, Mr. G. R. Gray's name *Cinclocerthia* is the oldest that can be adopted.

Note.—Since writing the above, I have carefully examined the two specimens of *Cinclocerthia ruficauda* in the British Museum. They seem to agree in every respect with Lafresnaye's description of *Ramphocinclus tremulus*, and, as the islands of Nevis and Guadaloupe are so near, I think we may reasonably conclude that these two birds are not specifically distinct. The rectrices are twelve in number, and not ten, as Mr. Gould supposed (P. Z. S. 1835, p. 186) might be the case.

The three species of this group ought therefore apparently to stand as follows :—1. CINCLOCERTHIA RUFICAUDA (*Stenorhynchus ruficaudus*, Gould; *C. ruficauda*, G. R. Gray; *Ramphocinclus tremulus*, Lafr.). 2. CINCLOCERTHIA GUTTURALIS (*Ramphocinclus gutturalis*, Lafr.); and, 3. CINCLOCERTHIA BRACHYURA (*Turdus brachyurus*, Vieill.; *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*, Lafr.; *Zoothera cinclops* et *Cinclops melanoleucus*, Bp.).

NOTICE OF SOME NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS. BY FREDERIC MOORE, ASSIST. MUS. EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Genus OTOCORIS, Bonaparte.

OTOCORIS LONGIROSTRIS, Gould, MSS.

Allied in colour to *O. penicillata*, and in the markings of the head and breast, but differs in its larger size, considerably more lengthened bill, wings and tail, and thicker toes; and in the feathers of the back being broadly centred with brown.

Length $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; of wing 5 inches; tail $3\frac{3}{4}$ ths; bill to frontal plumes $\frac{6}{10}$ ths; to gape $\frac{3}{4}$ ths; tarsus $\frac{10}{12}$ ths; middle toe and claw $\frac{8}{12}$ ths; hind ditto $\frac{7}{10}$ ths of an inch.

Hab. Neighbourhood of Agra. In Mr. Gould's Collection.

Genus EMBERIZA, Linn.

EMBERIZA STRACHEYI, Moore.

Affined to *E. Cia*, but differs in having the markings about the head more broadly developed, and of a deeper black colour, forming three well-defined black bars, as seen laterally; the throat and sides

of neck being whiter, and ashy on the front of the neck only, the breast and the rest of the under-parts being uniform bright rufous-brown, which colour is also prominent on the back, and especially on the scapulars, rump and upper tail-coverts.

Length 6 inches; of wing $3\frac{2}{3}$ ths; tail 3; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch.

Hab. Kumaon. In Mus. East India Company.

EMBERIZA CASTANEICEPS, Gould, MSS.

Also affined to *E. Cia.* Crown and ear-coverts deep chestnut-brown; superciliary streak, base of upper mandible, throat, front and sides of neck ashy white; behind the ears and nape ashy; a spot before the eye and streak from base of lower mandible down the sides of the throat black; back, scapulars and rump rufous-brown, the two former having blackish centres to the feathers; wings dusky black, the feathers margined with rufous-brown; tail dusky black, the two centre feathers broadly margined with rufous-brown, the two outer tipped obliquely with white for nearly the whole length; breast and flanks rufous-brown, and paling towards the centre of the belly; upper mandible dark-horn, lower paler.

Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $2\frac{7}{8}$ ths; tail $2\frac{5}{8}$ ths; tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

Hab. Kintang in China. In Mus. East India Comp., J. Gould, Esq.

Genus PROPASSER, Hodgson, Gray's Zool. Misc. p. 84 (1844);
P. Z. S. 1845, p. 36.

PHENICOSPIZA, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xxiii. p. 213 (1854).

PROPASSER THURA.

Carpodacus Thura, Bonaparte et Schlegel, Monogr. des Loxiens, t. 23. Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. p. 531 (male).

Propasser rhodopeplus, part. Hodgson.

Hab. Nepal. In Mus. East India Comp. Brit. Mus., J. Gould, Esq.

This species may be distinguished from the true *P. rhodopeplus*, by its rather smaller and a trifle more pyrrhuline bill; the colour of the male above being hair-brown, the feathers centred with blackish, and the lesser range of wing-coverts *only* being crimson-tipped; the under-parts, rump and upper tail-coverts, cheeks, forehead, and superciliary streak are pale silvery-crimson, the end of the latter and the centre of the belly being pure white; the crimson feathers of the head and throat being centred also with white, and the crimson colour being deepest at the base of the bill; whereas, in *P. rhodopeplus* the male above is dark crimson-brown, and has *both* ranges of wing-coverts *and the tertiaries* pale crimson-tipped. The female of *P. Thura* (which is now for the first time described) may be distinguished from the same sex of *P. rhodopeplus* by being paler above and having paler centres to the feathers; the colour of the under-parts being considerably more uniform; having also but faint centres to the feathers. *P. rhodopeplus* is a trifle larger than *P. Thura*.

The Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte has compared these specimens, and his Highness also verifies their distinctness.

PROPASSER PULCHERRIMUS, Hodgson.

Propasser pulcherrimus, Hodgson, Gray's Zool. Misc. (1844), p. 85.

Hab. Himalaya. In Mus. East India Comp., Brit. Mus., J. Gould, Esq.

The male differs from *P. rhodochrous* in having the forehead, superciliary streak, cheeks, throat, and under-parts, with the rump, of a paler or more silvery-crimson colour, being in some lights very silvery; the upper parts, with the crown, are dusky-brown with pale crimson-tinged edges to each feather. The female differs from the same sex of *P. rhodochrous* in having the under-parts dusky white, instead of rufescent, and the colours above are also less rufescent.

The size is the same as that of *P. rhodochrous*, excepting that in *P. pulcherrimus* the wing is longer in both sexes.

Remarks.—Both sexes of this species and *P. rhodochrous* were sent from Nepal by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., under the name of *pulcherrimus*, which name, upon examining his original drawings in the British Museum, we find refers to the true *rhodochrous* and not to the present species; but, as that indefatigable naturalist applied the name to both birds, we deem it but correct to retain it for the present bird.

Genus **LINOTA**, Bonaparte.

CANNABINA, Brehm.

LINOTA BREVIROSTRIS, Gould.

Linota brevirostris, Gould, Bonap. Geogr. et Comp. List of B. p. 34 (1838).

? *Fringilla bella*, Hempr. et Ehrenberg, Mus. Berol.

Hab. Erzeroum and Afghanistan. In Mus. East India Comp. et J. Gould, Esq.

Allied to *L. montium*, but distinguished from that species by its lighter colour, and the male having the pink colour on the rump paler; the axillaries and the basal edge of the inner web of the primaries and secondaries pure white; the tail being margined on the whole outer and broadly on the inner web also with pure white; the primaries and secondaries above are also broadly margined exteriorly with white. The female is also paler and broadly edged as in the male with white.

Length 5 inches; of wing $3\frac{7}{8}$ ths; of tail $2\frac{5}{8}$ ths; centre feathers $\frac{1}{6}$ inch less; bill to frontal plumes $\frac{5}{10}$ ths; to gape $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch; tarsus $\frac{1}{10}$ ths; centre toe and claw $\frac{5}{8}$ ths; and hind ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch.

Remark.—Cabanis in Catal. Birds Mus. Heine, p. 161, states that "the bill of *F. bella*, of Hempr. and Ehrenb., is a trifle larger than in *L. cannabina*, Linn., but in colour almost agrees with *L. fringillirostris*, Bonap. et Schlegel, Monog. Loxiens, t. 49, p. 45.

NEW GENUS OF FISH-SCALED LIZARDS (SCISSOSARÆ), FROM NEW GUINEA. BY J. E. GRAY, Ph.D. F.R.S., ETC. ETC.

The Lizard which I have the pleasure of bringing before the Society this evening, was presented to the British Museum, with

other most interesting and novel specimens, by Mr. John MacGillivray, who accompanied H.M.S. Herald as naturalist during her voyage in the Australasian seas.

CORUCIA.

Head broad, flat-topped; nostrils ovate, oblique, simple, not prolonged behind, on the middle of the lower part of the nasal shields; supranasal shields none; rostral square; internasal one, large, 8-sided, broader behind; frontal-nasal two, moderate, band-like, transverse; lateral-frontal one, small, subtrigonal, nearly equal-sided; frontal-parietals two, rhombic, contiguous at the angle; interparietal one, rhombic, elongate; eyebrows covered with band-like shields; lower eyelid with a series of larger opaque scales; temple covered with large shields; ears large, simple, edged in front.

Body fusiform, compressed; scales, 6-sided, smooth, with 3, 5 or 7 grooves, seen through the skin, of chin and underside of the body thinner, smooth.

Legs strong; toes five, cylindrical, elongate, unequal, with a series of band-like shields beneath; claws strong, curved.

Tail elongate, tapering, rather compressed, scales of upper surface like those of the back, but rather larger, with a central series of broad hexangular shields beneath.

Hab. Australasia.

This genus belongs to the same section in the Museum Catalogue as *Ateuchoglossus*, characterized by the simple nostril and scaled opaque lower eyelids. It differs from that genus in the smoothness of the scales, the shielded underside of the tail and several other characters.

CORUCIA ZEBRATA.

Pale yellowish-white (in spirits); back with irregular blackish-brown cross-bands; upper part of limbs and tail blackish, varied; head dark-brown.

Hab. New Guinea, the Island of San Christoval, *John MacGillivray, Esq.*, two adult and young specimens.

Length of adult nearly 2 feet.

December 11, 1855.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF ACTINIA, FROM THE SOUTH COAST OF DEVON. BY E. W. H. HOLDSWORTH.

Among various species of *Actinia* collected by me in July last, on the south coast of Devon, two appear to be undescribed, and although of small size, are of some interest as being additions to the fast increasing list of our native zoophytes.

They were found on the rocks near the entrance to Dartmouth harbour, a part of our western coast, which, from its steep rugged character and its luxuriant growth of sea-weeds, presents a fruitful hunting-ground for those in search of marine productions.

The first that I have to notice may be thus characterized:—

Body smooth and cylindrical when fully extended, from half to three-quarters of an inch in height, but very much flattened when

contracted; tentacula in four rows, moderately long, slender, and slightly tapering towards the tips, their length regularly diminishing from those of the inner circle outwards. The entire animal has a pale transparent appearance, and the only trace of decided colour about it is found in a narrow dark blue line surrounding the base of each tentaculum, and extending a little in the direction of the mouth, but soon becoming indistinct. Very delicate white lines are at times visible on the surface of the body, but these are probably only the edges of the membranous septa seen through the transparent skin. When this animal is at all roughly handled, the long seminal filaments are thrown out from the mouth in great profusion. This little Anemone approaches very closely in many respects the *Act. candida* of Mr. Gosse, and I am indebted to that gentleman for his ready assistance in determining the differences between them. *Act. candida* may be distinguished by its possessing fewer tentacles, by the colour of the body being of a more opaque white, and especially by the narrow lines surrounding each tentaculum being of a reddish-purple tint, and enlarging into a conspicuous spot on each side of its base. In their habits and general appearance they are very much alike, and had I obtained only one example of the pale species, I should hardly have ventured to consider it more than a variety. Ten specimens, however, were taken from different places, and did not vary except in size; they were found on the exposed surface of perpendicular rocks at about half-tide mark, and when out of the water and contracted, were very difficult to distinguish, owing to their great transparency. I propose for this species the name of *pallida*.

It has been my custom, after any expeditions in search of *Actinia*, to bring home one or two plants of *Laminaria digitata*, in order to examine at my leisure the various forms of animal life commonly met with among their tangled roots; and it was on one of these plants I found, in company with minute *Ophiocomæ*, green *Nereides* and numerous other animals, the beautifully marked Anemone that I have now to describe.

It has the following characters:—

Body elongate, cylindrical, about three-quarters of an inch in length when extended, the upper half covered with numerous pale perforated warts, increasing in number as they approach the top, and from which the white filaments are protruded when the animal is irritated. Tentacula in five rows. Colour of the body a dark orange, becoming paler towards the base. This species is chiefly remarkable for the beauty of its oral disk, which for colouring and elegance of marking will bear comparison with that of any of the larger kinds. The external half of the disk is of a rich purplish-brown, changing into a light orange tint towards the mouth, the pink tumid lips of which are frequently conspicuous; from near the centre diverge ten or twelve pairs of yellow bands slightly separating as they proceed outwards, and at their extremities partially surrounding the bases of the tentacula, according to the following arrangement. Taking a small segment of the disk, the first tentacle may be said to arise from the space between two pairs of bands, the second being situated within

the pair; the band bifurcates near its extremity, and encloses the third tentacle; these branches again divide and form a similar enclosure for the arms of the fourth row: beyond these is a set of very short tentacula; these, as far as I have been able to examine them, are not connected with the yellow bands, but their small size and the difficulty of seeing their entire length when the animal is expanded, render it almost impossible to describe their exact appearance. On the surface of the disk a cream-coloured spot is situated near the base of each tentacle of the first and second rows, those connected with the inner series being farther removed from them than those of the second; the alternation of light and shade produced by this arrangement gives a battlemented appearance to the disk, and adds considerably to the general effect. The tentacula rapidly diminish in size from those of the inner row outwards; they are dark brown at the bases, becoming paler towards the tips, and are encircled by three well-defined white rings, of which the basal ones are very distinct. Several examples of this species were obtained at extreme low water-mark, from a large mass of detached rocks known as the Mewstone, near the entrance to Dartmouth harbour. They were met with on two or three occasions, but were always found nestling among the roots of *Laminaria digitata*.

A few weeks since, part of a plant of *Laminaria* was sent to me from Devon, and among the roots I found six specimens of an *Actinia* that closely resembled the one just described, excepting that the brown on the tentacula and certain parts of the disk was replaced by various shades of red. These animals differ so little, except in the general colour of the disk and appendages, that until I have an opportunity of examining some more specimens, I must consider the red one as only a variety of the other, and as such I would provisionally describe it. This uncertainty obliges me to depart from the old-established rule of giving the specific name from some marked character in the animal, and I must therefore propose the more general title of *ornata* for the brown species, and suggest that of *rubida* for the red one, should it on future examination prove to be distinct, which I am inclined to think is probable.

MISCELLANEOUS.

OBITUARY NOTICE.—WILLIAM YARRELL.

THE list of British zoologists has just lost one of its best and brightest ornaments in the person of William Yarrell, who died suddenly at Yarmouth on Monday the 1st of September. Mr. Yarrell was born in June 1784, in Duke Street, St. James's, where his father carried on the business of a newspaper agent: this business was afterwards continued by the son in Ryder Street until nearly the time of his decease.

On the 3rd of August last, as he was returning from church, he was seized by a giddiness and unsteadiness of foot, which proved to